

# News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcounty homeowners

April 27, 2012

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[OneStop](#)  
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## Dear Homeowner:

As a resident of Gwinnett County, you know there is always a lot going on in the community. [Gwinnett County Government](#) would appreciate your help keeping your neighbors informed by sharing the following information through your homeowner association newsletter, website, and e-mails and by talking to your friends and family. Click on *forward this e-mail to a friend* below to share this newsletter!

## Pawfest at Tribble Mill Park | May 5

Join [Parks and Recreation](#) and the Gwinnett Humane Society for PAWfest on May 5 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Bring your pet for a great day of fun at Tribble Mill Park, located at 2125 Tribble Mill Parkway in Lawrenceville. Learn about pet-related issues while celebrating the human-pet bond. Admission is free.

PAWfest was voted as one of Gwinnett's Best Local Festivals in Gwinnet Magazine's Best of Gwinnett in 2010 and 2011.

For more information, visit [www.pawfest.com](http://www.pawfest.com).



## Burn ban in Gwinnett through September 30

The Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services will observe a total burn ban on all outdoor burning from May 1 to September 30, 2012, in Gwinnett County. All types of outdoor or open burning are prohibited during this time period, including the burning of trees, limbs, or any other yard waste, and the use of air curtain destructors for land clearing. For unincorporated residents, please contact [your solid waste hauler](#) to ask about adding yard waste service.

For more information about the burn ban, please contact the Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services Community Risk Reduction Division at 678.518.4980 or visit [www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com](http://www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com).

## How does your lawn look this spring?

Join other Gwinnett gardeners to get free tips on the basic principles of landscape design that can help create an attractive home landscape. Timothy Daly of the [Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service](#) is the instructor. The class is scheduled for May 1 from noon to 1:00pm at the Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Conference Room, located at 750 South Perry Street, suite 400.



Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Timothy Daly at 678.377.4010 or [timothy.daly@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:timothy.daly@gwinnettcounty.com).

### Celebrating 25 years of memories

In celebration of 25 years as a countywide park system, Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (GCPR) is creating a documentary featuring park patrons who have played an important role in the park system, as well as those wanting to share interesting memories from the last 25 years. Patrons are asked to bring photos, videos, and oral histories to be used in crafting this documentary titled *25 Years of Memories*. You can take memorabilia to designated community recreation centers during the months of April and May, and you can schedule an interview by calling 770.614.2060.

In addition to the film documentary, GCPR is hosting a series of silver anniversary celebration events throughout the year. For a complete listing of events, visit [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com).

### SPLOST: Drivers, pedestrians to get improvements

Centerville Highway and the Archer High School area are getting mobility improvements. Crews will install fiber-optic cables and traffic monitoring cameras along almost seven miles of State Route 124 from U.S. 78 to the DeKalb County line. The new equipment will allow operators at Gwinnett's traffic control center to monitor traffic and make real-time adjustments to traffic signals based on actual conditions.



The new traffic cameras, funded by the 2009 SPLOST sales tax program, also will be added to GC Smart Commute, live traffic feeds of heavily-traveled intersections and corridors that help Gwinnett residents plan their daily commutes. Feeds are available 24/7 at

[www.gcsmartcommute.com](http://www.gcsmartcommute.com) and on TVgwinnett, your local government access cable channel, weekdays between 6:30am and 8:30am and again from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Archer High School students will get new sidewalk, curb, and gutter and drainage improvements for a third of a mile on the north side of New Hope Road from the high school to Tribble Walk Drive. This work is expected to be complete by the beginning of the school year this August. A related project on the same contract will rebuild the intersection of Grayson New Hope Road and Chandler Road with a half-mile of widening, turn lanes, a new traffic signal and upgraded storm drainage. The intersection work is expected to be completed by this fall. Funding for the safety project also comes from the 2009 SPLOST program.

### County mails assessment notices

Gwinnett County mailed approximately 257,000 residential and 14,000 commercial annual notices of current assessment on April 6. Overall, approximately 80,000 of the residential notices will show a decrease in value, with an average decrease of 22 percent. The sum of these

downward adjustments total \$2.5 billion of residential market value.

The general review of commercial properties resulted in more than 300 properties receiving increases in value totaling almost \$625 million in market value. New property growth, fairly equally split between residential and commercial property, totaled approximately \$400 million in market value.



The County planned for an 8.3 percent decrease equaling \$2.1 billion of taxable value for both residential and commercial property when the 2012 budget was adopted. Officials remain cautiously optimistic that this projection will align with the actual results of these residential adjustments, plus any additional changes occurring from residential and commercial appeals. Every drop in assessed value reduces the homeowner's property tax bill, but also reduces the amount of property tax revenue available to fund County operations.

#### Filing an appeal

Property owners have 45 days from the date of the notice to file an appeal by using the statewide uniform appeal form (PT311A). The deadline for appeals is May 21. People who choose to appeal may submit appeals by U.S. mail or in person. Appeal information, interactive appeal forms, and FAQs are located on the Tax Assessor's website at [www.gwinnett-assessor.com](http://www.gwinnett-assessor.com). Taxpayers also can track the status of their appeal online this year.

The Tax Assessor's Office is prepared to answer questions about the notices or the appeal process through e-mail at [assessor@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:assessor@gwinnettcountry.com), by phone at 770.822.7200, or in person at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville.

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